

BEWARE OF JACK VAN IMPE

Friday Church News Notes, October 15, 2004 (David W. Cloud, Fundamental Baptist Information Service, P.O. Box 610368, Port Huron, MI 48061, fbns@wayoflife.org, <http://www.wayoflife.org>, 866-295-4143) -

Jack Van Impe once walked in fundamentalist circles. He preached at Tennessee Temple when I was a student there in the mid-1970s, and he preached at Bob Jones University and at various fundamentalist conferences.

By the 1980s, he made a dramatic turn around. In 1984, he published *Heart Disease in Christ's Body*, in which he strongly denounced separatism and called for ecumenical unity. He said he was going to preach nothing but “love” all the rest of his days, re-defining “love” in an unscriptural manner.

Soon thereafter he said: “Let’s forget our labels and come together in love, and the pope has called for that. ... Till I die I will proclaim nothing but love for all my brothers and sisters in Christ, my Catholic brothers and sisters, Protestant brothers and sisters, Christian Reformed, Lutherans, I don’t care what label you are.”

The spiritual blindness that has come upon Jack Van Impe since he rejected biblical separation illustrates the power of error to corrupt those who do not separate from it. In his autobiography Van Impe is called “The Walking Bible,” but Bible knowledge is not the same as Bible obedience.

In light of his new ecumenical approach, it is not surprising that Van Impe has moved ever closer to Rome. The ecumenical river is running powerfully in the direction of the City on Seven Hills where the old harlot lives (Rev. 17), and if a preacher does not aggressively paddle against the current, he will be swept down stream.

Van Impe has drifted far down the ecumenical river.

On his television program, July 23, 1995, Van Impe said: “The Holy Spirit declares in Eph. 4:3 we are to ‘endeavor to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.’ I wasn’t doing that. I was dividing the Christians. God comes into the heart of Catholics, and Lutherans, and Baptists, and Pentecostals, and with God in us, we can fellowship with one another” (Van Impe’s television program, July 23, 1995).

In his September 29, 1992, television program Van Impe “praised Pope John Paul II, calling him a ‘great’ man, extolling his character and telling his audience that they ought to ‘thank God’ for such a courageous religious leader.” In 1993, Van Impe published *Startling Revelations: Pope John Paul II*, a video that presented the pope as a defender of the faith! He failed to mention that the pope has the words “I am totally yours” (in Latin)

sewn on his garments as a testimony to his complete devotion to MARY! When the Pope survived an assassination attempt, he gave glory to Mary for saving him. The Pope is a defender of the Catholic faith, but he is ignorant of the “faith once delivered to the saints” (Jude 3).

In fact, Van Impe is now promoting Islam as a peaceful religion. On his Sept. 4, 2004, television program he described a letter he received from the Islamic Supreme Council of America that praised him for his “fairness.” The Muslim author of the letter said that he, too, is looking for the return of Jesus to destroy the antichrist and bring in the kingdom. Van Impe did not explain that this Muslim is using a completely different dictionary to define these terms, that according to Islam the antichrist is Judaism and that it is the Jews and those who support them who will be destroyed. Van Impe went on to describe true Islam as a peaceful religion and concluded by saying, “Thank God for the Muslims who are preaching love,” and by castigating Christians for arguing and dividing.

Van Impe is misrepresenting Islam and its Koran just as he misrepresents the Pope. He is a deeply deluded and very dangerous man.